GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3743
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2007
PROBLEM OF CATERPILLARS IN KARNATAKA
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka has always faced the problem of caterpillars;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government in this regard; and

(c) the nature of assistance provided so far and proposed to provided by the Union Government to the State to tackle the problem?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a): No, Sir.

(b)&(c): The Central Government advises the State Governments/Departments of Horticulture/Agriculture to monitor the pest and disease situation in various crops and provide advisories, so that the States can take appropriate control measures to avoid crop losses. Further, to assist the States, Central Government has established 31 Central Integrated Pest Management Centres in 28 States and one Union Territory under the scheme `Strengthening and Modernization of Pest Management Approach in India`. The mandate of these Centres is pest/ disease monitoring, production and release of bio-control agents/bio-pesticides, conservation of bio-control agents and Human Resource Development in Integrated Pest Management (IPM) by imparting training to Agriculture/Horticulture Extension Officers and farmers at grass root level by organizing Farmers Field Schools (FFSs). Under the scheme 544 FFSs have been organized over the years, wherein 2232 Agriculture/Horticulture Extension Officers and 16,670 farmers in different States/Union Territories have been trained on latest IPM technology in various crops. IPM package of practices for pest/disease management in 77 major crops in collaboration with State Department of Agriculture/Horticulture/Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institutions/State Agriculture Universities have been prepared and circulated to all States/ Union Territories for their use.

Further, grant-in-aid of Rs.101.84 lakhs has been given for strengthening/setting up of State Bio-control Laboratory (SBCL) at Gulbarga, and State Pesticide Testing Laboratories in the State.